

Amendments to the Specification

Please disregard the amendment to the specification of July 24, 2001, and please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--(vi) A chimeric sIL-6R/IL-6 protein, being the herein designated sIL-6R δ Val/L/IL-6 having a 13 amino acid peptide linker of sequence E-F-G-A-G-L-V-L-G-G-Q-F-M SEQ ID NO:1) between the C-terminal Val-356 of sIL-6R and the N-terminal Pro-29 of IL-6R, said chimeric protein having the sequence set forth in Fig. 3 wherein the tripeptide of sequence E-F-M betweenat positions 357-359 of Fig. 3 is replaced by said 13 amino acid peptide sequence.--